| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orissa | 3142 | 0.80 | 1983 | 1.00 | 200 | 0.08 |
| North Eastern States | 5761 | 1.20 | 6137 | 3.00 | 115 | 0.05 |
| TOTAL : | 388195 | 100.00 | 220825 | 100.00 | 262300 | 100.00 |

(d) The coffee estates which employs 15 and above workers on 5 hectares or more of land under coffee are covered under the Plantation Labour Act 1951. The Act prescribes appropriate living conditions and various other benefits to workers. The provisions of the Act are being enforced by the respective State Governments. The Coffee Board through Plan programme has been extending educational stipend/meritorious awards and support to pursue professional degree courses to children of workers and tiny growers.

**'Eye on the Sky' Surveillance System by IAF**

1208. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force has lately received its first "Eye in the sky" for better surveillance and guarding the Indian shores and skies against any intruder and keeping any eye on the military movement, across India's shores and borders;

(b) if so, at what cost and from where; and

(c) the steps taken to put it in place?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Indian Air Force has received the first Airborne Warning and Air Control System (AWACS) aircraft on 25th May 2009. The contract signed with M/s Elta, Israel, is for supply of three such aircraft alongwith associated equipment at a cost of 1.108 billion US Dollars. All necessary steps have been taken to support operations of the aircraft from its base.

**Overhauling of T-72 Tanks**

1209. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the number of T-72 Tanks that is waiting for overhauling and the number of Tanks Government proposes to send to HVF Avadi in the year 2009 for overhauling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): 62 Nos. T-72 Tanks are awaiting completion of overhaul at HVF. In the year 2009-2010 it is proposed to overhaul a total number of 120 tanks at HVF, for which the remaining tanks would be sent by the Army.

**Release of spectrum for 2G and 3G Bands**

1210. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRJ M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Ministry of Defence has agreed to release 45 MHz of spectrum consisting of 25 MHz in 3G band and 20 MHz in 2G band;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that out of 45 MHz the Ministry is releasing only 10 MHz in 3G band and 5 MHz in 2G band; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir; Ministry of Defence has agreed to release 25 MHz in 3G Band and (20+20) MHz in 2G Band on operationalisation of nationwide Armed Forces Network.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir; phased release of spectrum is linked to completion of Armed Forces Network.

**Return of honorary medals by Ex-servicemen**

1211. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of retired Defence officers have returned their medals to the Hon'ble President, who is Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) whether Government is considering persuading them to take their medals back with honour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) They are with the Government.

(c) Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary to look into the issue of One Rank One Pension and related issues has submitted its report recommending the following benefits to substantially improve the pension for the PBORs and Commissioned Officers, which have been accepted by the Government:-

(i) Inclusion of Classification Allowance for PBOR from 1.1.2006.

(ii) Removal of linkage of full pension with 33 years from 1.1.2006.

(iii) Revision of Lt. General pension after carving out a separate pay scale for them.

(iv) Bringing parity between pension of pre and post 10.10.1997 PBOR pensioners and

(v) Further improving PBOR pensions based on award of GOM, 2006.

Since the issue on which they were agitating has been adequately addressed by the Committee, the Government expects them to honour their hard earned medals.